

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 13, 15-19, and 25-30. Claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-13, and 15-21, 23-30 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 20, 21, and 23 have been amended, and claims 4-5 and 22 have been cancelled. The basis for the amended claims may be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims of the original application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has objected to claims 5-7, 22, and 23 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's determination in this regard.


Independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended in view of the Examiner's remarks concerning the allowable subject matter. Consequently, independent claims 1 and 20 and dependent claims 2-3, 6-7, 9-12, 21, 23, and 24 which depend either directly or indirectly upon claims 1 or 20, are believed to be patentable over the art of record and in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendment and arguments set forth above, independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended in view of the Examiner's remarks concerning the allowable subject matter. The Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-13, 15-21, and 23-30 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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